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DEFINITIONS WANTED.

It is generally considered somewhat important that when two persons are conversing each should understand the language of the other. Listening to an unknown tongue is neither interesting nor profitable ; yet there is more of this than is generally imagined. Words and phrases with which we have been familiar for years seem to convey some meaning to us, but if we try to translate many of them into terms of exact and clear thought we shall often fail. Such words and phrases are worse than useless, because they not only do not convey any information, but they lead us to imagine that our mental wealth is much greater than is actually the case. To be poor and know it is disagreeable ; but to be poor and think ourselves rich is disastrous. Beyond the deep, however, a lower depth, for bad as may be an unknown tongue, a misunderstood tongue is worse. The former leaves us in ignorance, the latter lands us in error ; and the latter is even more prevalent than the former. For example, Professor Huxley uses the word "infidel" in its general sense, as one who does not believe in certain doctrines ; while the *Spectator* means by it one who is unfaithful to a trust. The one aspect of it is intellectual, and the other moral. Suppose these two arguing whether a certain man were an infidel, one